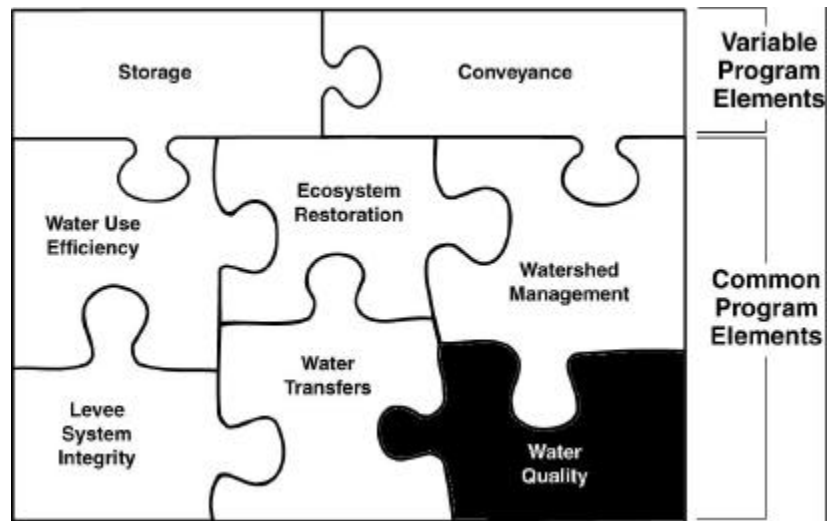




CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM

Water Quality Program

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a cooperative effort among state and federal agencies and the public to ensure a healthy ecosystem, reliable water supplies, good quality water, and stable levees in California's Bay-Delta system. The Water Quality Program is one of six Program elements common to each of the three potential solutions CALFED has developed, represents a significant investment in the system and will greatly reduce system conflicts.



The Problem

Water Quality is one of six Program elements common to each of the three potential solutions CALFED has developed.

The California Bay-Delta system provides water for drinking, industry, recreation, agriculture, irrigation, and to support aquatic and wetland habitat. Water quality is critically important for each of these purposes. Unfortunately, there are problems with water quality in the Bay-Delta. Uncontrolled runoff from harvested forests, farms, mines, residential landscaping and urban streets, all contribute to the Bay-Delta water quality problem, as do discharges of municipal and industrial waste water. Also, high salt concentrations in waters from the Bay impact the use of Delta water for agriculture and drinking water, and can negatively affect the delicate balance of the ecosystem.

The Goal

Provide good water quality for all beneficial uses by making significant reductions in point and non-point source pollution for the benefit of all water uses and the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

Ways This Can Be Accomplished

The Water Quality Program element includes the following broad categories of programmatic actions:

- Mine Drainage
- Urban and Industrial Runoff
- Wastewater and Industrial Discharge
- Agricultural Drainage and Runoff
- Water Treatment
- Water Management
- Human Health
- Toxicity of Unknown Origin

While the Water Quality Program remains relatively unchanged among the alternatives, its performance can vary significantly depending on the other Program elements. Storage can help timing for the release of pollutants remaining after source control efforts. Improved conveyance south to Delta export pumps will improve water quality for those diversions but may decrease water quality for in-Delta diversions.

Key Benefits

- Improves Delta water quality by reducing volume of urban and agricultural runoff/drainage and concentration of pollutants entering the Delta
- Improves water quality for the ecosystem by reducing toxicants as a limiting factor
- Improves drinking water quality and public health benefits
- Reduces concentration of compounds contributing to trihalomethane formation potential and degradation of drinking water supplies

Issues & Concerns

- Differing opinions on approach: regulatory framework v. incentive-based
- Need better integration with ecosystem restoration and water use efficiency
- Program not sufficiently aggressive or developed to accomplish more than status quo
- Differing views on how to achieve drinking water quality objectives – providing the highest quality source water versus relying upon treatment methods
- Disagreement over whether the program should include dilution-oriented actions